



## *First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman- Kentucky Reciprocal Agreement*

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

### **CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: \*First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman – KENTUCKY RECIPROCITY**

*Renewal must be in accordance with the BCME continuing education requirement.*

#### **THIS CERTIFICATION AUTHORIZES THE FIRST CLASS MINE FOREMAN - UG TO:**

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified mine foreman/examiner
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

#### **NOTE:**

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at shaft/slope locations.
- Hold a General Miner Certification as part of this certification (A card will be issued)

#### **THIS CERTIFICATION AUTHORIZES THE SURFACE FOREMAN TO:**

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified Surface mine foreman
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift examinations

#### **NOTE:**

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at preparation plants and dock locations.
- Hold a General Miner Certification as part of this certification (A card will be issued)

### **APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Copy of current Kentucky foreman card
- Reciprocity can only be used one time to achieve certification

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 85% on the Mining Laws element of the examination. *Applicants must pass the Mining Law section of the First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman examination in order for Virginia to reciprocity Kentucky foreman certification. If the mining law examination is failed, then the applicant may submit fee for retake of the examination 10 working days after the notification letter has been sent. If the applicant does not pass on the second try, the entire foreman examination (either First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman) must be taken under the regular examination process for foreman certification.*

**ELEMENTS OF EXAM****NUMBER OF QUESTIONS****First Class Mine Foreman**

- Mining Laws (ML) (UG) 50
- Records (UG)  
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)  
Weekly Examination (WE)  
Practical Exercises (PS)
  - Ventilation
  - Roof Control
  - Emergency Response
- Gas Detection (GD)

**Surface Foreman**

- Mining Laws (MP) (Surface) 50
- Virginia Coal Surface Reclamation Regulations (RL) (Surface) 20
- Records (Surface)  
Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)  
Ground Control/Red Zone Practical (GC)
- Gas Detection (GD)

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:****First Class Mine Foreman**

- Mining Laws of Virginia
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide

**Surface Foreman**

- Mining Laws of Virginia
- Surface Foreman Study Guide

**The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.**

**\*4 hours of biannual continuing education required to update this certification.**